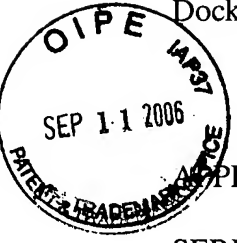


9-12-06

RCE
IFW

Docket No. 03213616



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Thomas Viebach et al.) ATTORNEY DOCKET: 03213616
SERIAL NO.: 10/718,238) GROUP ART UNIT: 3739
FILED: November 19, 2003) EXAMINER: Kasztejna, Matthew John
TITLE: ENDOSCOPE HEAD
DATE: September 11, 2006 CUSTOMER NO.: 26565

Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail"

"Express Mail" mailing label No. EV 548617189 US. Date of Deposit: September 11, 2006. I hereby certify that this paper (and its recited enclosures) or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Timothy M. Hubalik

(signature of person mailing paper or fee)

(typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Mail Stop: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are the following for the above-captioned application:

1. Request For Continued Examination and Amendment;
2. \$395.00 check; and
3. Return receipt postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required under Rule 1.17 concerning this transaction, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-0019.

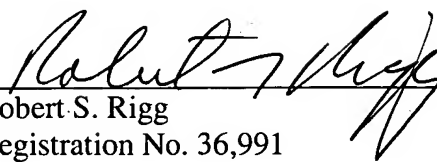
09/13/2006 HLE333 00000046 10718238

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395.00 OP

Docket No. 03213616

Respectfully submitted,


Robert S. Rigg
Registration No. 36,991

CUSTOMER NUMBER 26565
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION, AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 14, 2006**

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated June 14, 2006 in the above application. Further examination of the application is respectfully requested after entry of the amendments proposed herein. Applicants respectfully request amendment of the patent application and reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.114)

Please withdraw finality of rejection and continue examination of the above-referenced Application, as amended herein below, under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. In connection with this request, please apply \$395 (as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)) from the enclosed

Docket No. 03213616

check to pay the applicable fee. If any additional fee is deemed payable (or overpayment creditable) in respect of this communication, please charge or credit such a fee to Deposit Account No. 13-0019.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6.